

DERRICK EDWARD FREDERICK ROBBINS 1928–2010



Derrick was evacuated to Deddington in September 1939 to stay with his uncle, Chris Ells, at Tower View (now Wirral House). He subsequently moved to the USA and was living in Sarasota, Florida when he found the *DN* on the internet some years ago; he then contacted Ruth Johnson to offer his crystal clear recollections of his war years in the village for publishing in *DN*. Many people will remember the series that ran over some two years.

I took over the contact from Ruth in order to facilitate the transfer of the, by now, very extensive collection of stories to Deddington OnLine. In the process Derrick became a good internet friend and a most amusing correspondent. He followed the month to month goings-on in Deddington closely and provided yet more memories for the website. I would have very much liked to meet him and we joked about his now being legally able to drink a pint of Hooky if he came to visit us as opposed to a furtive sip from a friend's glass behind the Unicorn as a schoolboy.

When I stopped getting responses to emails I feared what we now know. Sadly he passed away in March last year. We only found this out recently via an internet search by Eileen Anderson; it led her to a notice in the Sarasota Herald Chronicle which fortunately also provided the name of his daughter, Jasmyn Copeland, and where she lived. A further search of social networking sites led Eileen to make personal contact. So although we have lost a very good friend, we have made another to whom we send our sincere condolences. I would like to think we might be able to tell Jasmyn in person one day how much Derrick's tales have been appreciated in the village.

Rob Forsyth

For Derrick Robins' many recollections of life in Deddington see the collection of Ruth Johnson's writings and www.deddington.org.uk/history/worldwars/personalstories/index/recollectionsofthe1940s.